



NEW JERSEY  
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER

New Jersey  
Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.  
Rutgers University

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

- Allentown  
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
- Atlantic City  
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
- New York City  
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.
- Philadelphia  
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

- Vineland  
Phone: (856)691-0721  
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.
- Landisville  
Phone: (856)697-2273  
Direct Sales Daily
- Swedesboro  
Phone: (856)476-0313
- Hightstown  
Phone: (609)448-0193  
Auction Sales Mon-Wed-Fri-7pm

Volume 66No. 22

Date: August 30, 2004

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania

Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ

8 AM EDT Monday, August 30, 2004

Rainfall amounts of one half to one inch later today and into Tuesday morning with locally heavy amounts. Little expected the remainder of Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, southeast around 10 mph today and tonight, northwest 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 50 to 60 today, near 100 tonight, 45 to 55 Tuesday.

Dew points, low to mid 70s today and tonight then dropping through the 60s on Tuesday.

Drying conditions, fair this morning but turning poor this afternoon, becoming good during Tuesday afternoon.

Little dew expected tonight but wetting in precipitation is likely. Moderate dew Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine, 20 today, 50 Tuesday.

There is an 80 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Conditions do not appear favorable for the occurrence of cranberry scald today and Tuesday but conditions on Wednesday might be favorable.

Hay cutting is not recommended for today with a high likelihood of precipitation. Drier air will start to move into the region on Tuesday and should begin a favorable haying period.

Soil moisture in percent of field capacity continues to decrease but significant widespread precipitation is expected later today and tonight and should end the need for irrigation in many locations.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 6, 2004, through September 12, 2004 is calling for temperatures to average above normal and precipitation to total near normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am August 30, 2004

Temperatures averaged above normal, averaging 72 degrees north, 73 degrees central, and 73 degrees south. Extremes were 91 degrees at Freehold and Toms River on September 29, 2004, and 52 degrees at Pomona on September 24, 2004.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.00 inches north, 0.00 inches central, and 0.01 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 0.05 inches at Downtstown on September 26, 2004 through September 27, 2004.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 82 percent north, 67 percent central, and 47 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 71 degrees north, 71 degrees central, and 72 degrees south.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2004

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week						
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches -										

\*Departure from normal.  
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, 2004, total and departure from normal or long term average.  
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

Weather Conditions Favorable for Fieldwork

Days suitable for field work for the week ending Sunday, August 29, 2004, were 6.6. Temperatures across most of the state were below normal the beginning of the week, rising to above normal by the end of the week. Soil moisture was rated 25% short and 75% adequate. Fieldwork included baling hay, harvesting corn silage, vegetable harvesting, picking fruit, planting vegetables for fall harvest, and pruning. There was a report in the central district that soybean pods seemed slow to fill, and the plants were lodging because of height. It was also reported that there were soybean aphids detected in some fields, along with grasshopper activity. Disease problems were reported, including downy mildew, in pumpkin fields. In some tomato fields in the northern and central districts, fruit displayed cracking due to weather conditions. The fall cucumber crop was ready for harvest in the southern district. Potato harvest continued across the state. Peach harvest continued. Weather conditions were favorable for milk production. Pasture conditions were rated fair to good across the state.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR AUGUST 30, 2004

Acorn & Spaghetti Squash - Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product.

Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach - Harvesting in good quality and volume.

Basil - Harvesting good quality and volume as basil likes warmer weather.

Beets - Harvesting good quality and fair volume.

Butternut Squash -Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product.

Cabbage - Good quality Red, Savoy, and Green being harvested in major quantities.

Cantaloupes - Fair to good quality and decreasing volume. Finishing up.

Cilantro - Harvesting good quality and volume.

Cucumbers - Harvesting good quality and volume.

Dandelions - Spring planted Pasquale variety available in good volume.

Dill & Spinach - Harvesting fair to good quality of Spinach and Dill in decreasing volume.

Eggplant - Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.

Escarole/Endive - Harvesting a light to decreasing volume of fair to good quality product.

Green Onions - Good quality and fair to good volume.

Greens - Good quality and volume of Collards, Kholrabi, Kale, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard.

Leeks - Good quality spring planted being harvested in good volume.

Nectarines - The Fantasia variety is finishing up over the next week to ten days. All fruit finish and quality is very good. Fruit size will be mostly the 2 ¼" and 2 ½" sizes.

Parsley & Mint - Good quality and quantity available.

Peaches - All varieties have very good quality and flavor due to the nice weather mix that we've been receiving. Fruit size is mostly 2 ½" size fruit though with a fair volume of 2 ¾" size fruit. Jersey Queen variety is being harvested in fair to decreasing volume. The late season varieties Encore and Laurel are being harvested in light to increasing volume and should be available for the next two weeks. The white variety Lady Nancy will finish being harvested this week as the late season variety Snow Giant will begin being harvested in increasing volume and will be available for the next two weeks. The new white varieties have the look and flavor that consumers desire and the shelf life that allows you to get the peaches to them. Due to the early start of the season, expect peaches to be available only until mid-September this year.

Peppers -Harvesting very good quality product in good volume. We also have an excellent assortment of great quality hot peppers available. It's been a very good growing season for hot peppers.

Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) - Good quality and quantity available.

Squashes - Fair to good quality Yellow and Zucchini are still being harvested in light quantities due to some regional disease problems. The tight marketplace has provided very good prices to growers who have been able to produce good quality product right now.

Sweet Corn - Harvesting very good quality and good volume. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to fall insect pressures.

Tomatoes - Good quantity and very good quality available. Plum tomatoes are also available in good volume with similar very good quality.

White Potatoes - The Redskin variety Norland and Superior round white varieties being harvested. There is a large crop of good quality potatoes this year. Source your New Jersey white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags. A number of chain stores have made large displays of these and they've sold quite well.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Cabbage - Growers expecting a late September harvest.

Lettuces & Escarole/Endive - Growers expecting a mid-September harvest.

Sweet Potatoes - Should begin harvesting in mid-September.